

SEQUOIA WASHINGTONIANA, A NEW HOST RECORD FOR
HALISIDOTA ARGENTATA PACKARD

On March 16, 1936, the writer observed a heavy infestation of caterpillars on a 25' big tree transplant that has been growing for a good many years in front of the Ranger's Club, Yosemite National Park. The caterpillars had nearly killed the top ten feet of the crown by their feeding which was accomplished by consuming the greater part of the fleshy green portion of the twigs and leaving the woody portion beneath (Fig. 1). Often the twigs would be chewed nearly through so that they would break and hang down. The foliage where the feeding was done and the trunk of the tree, was webbed similar to, but much thinner than the feeding webs made by tent-caterpillars. The caterpillars were removed the following day by hand picking, and by the middle of the summer the tree had almost completely recovered from the feeding injuries. By the following spring the tree had recovered entirely.

About three dozen of larvae picked from the tree were brought into Berkeley and fed on big tree foliage collected on the University campus. Fifteen adults were reared from this lot. Cocoons were spun between June 3 and July 2. The first moths emerged July 3 and continued to emerge to July 17.

The moths are somewhat smaller than the average of those from Douglas fir, but well within the range in size of specimens reared from this and other hosts.

No caterpillars of this species have ever been observed on big trees growing in their natural habitats in any of the groves in Yosemite. That there is any serious possibility of this moth causing widespread injury to big tree reproduction is unlikely.

Donald DeLeon

Donald DeLeon
Associate Entomologist.

Berkeley, California.
December 29, 1937.



J. E. Patterson

Figure 1. Halisidota argentata
caterpillars feeding on big tree
foliage, Yosemite National Park.